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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/009,051	04/22/2002	Stefan-Horea Culca	20798/0204662-US0	4397
7278	7590	09/07/2006	EXAMINER	
DARBY & DARBY P.C. P. O. BOX 5257 NEW YORK, NY 10150-5257			LUGO, DAVID B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2611	

DATE MAILED: 09/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/009,051

Applicant(s)

CULCA, STEFAN-HOREA

Examiner

David B. Lugo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 April 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-16, 18 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 17 and 19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 April 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/6/01.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 10-16, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spracklen et al. U.S. Patent 4,337,465 in view of Price et al. U.S. Patent 5,736,796.
3. Regarding claim 10, Spracklen discloses a data transmission system comprising a first circuit part or transceiver communicating with a second circuit part or transceiver (i.e. nodes 11 – Fig. 1), where each transceiver includes a transmitter having a transmitter terminal (Fig. 4B), and a receiver including a receiver terminal (Fig. 4C), where the transceiver transmits and receives data over the transmission line via terminals TXD (Fig. 4B) and RXD (Fig. 4C), respectively, for communicating with other transceivers, and where the transceivers are connected to each other via the transmission line, as shown in Figure 1. Spracklen further shows a current source, shown in Figure 7, that feeds current into the transmission line (col. 7, lines 16-18) so that a first signal state of the receiver of the first circuit part (i.e. SYNC WAIT state) is capable of being changed as a function of a second signal state of the transmitter of second circuit part (i.e. PACKET state), and a third signal state of the receiver of the second circuit part (i.e. SYNC WAIT state) is capable of being changed as a function of a fourth signal state of the transmitter of first circuit part (i.e. PACKET state), as Spracklen discloses that when data is to be transmitted, the transceiver is in a SYNC WAIT state while it checks to see if the channel is

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IDLE (see state diagram - Fig. 3A), and if the channel is not IDLE (i.e. the channel is in a packet-being-transmitted state meaning the other transceiver is in a PACKET state), then the transceiver remains in the SYNC WAIT state, otherwise it moves to the PACKET state. Further, the second transceiver (second circuit part) operates in a complementary fashion. Spracklen does not expressly show terminals at each circuit part for a reference potential line.

Price discloses a communication system in Figure 4 where two communication units are connected via a transmission line 72 and a reference potential line (i.e. GND). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to employ the teachings of Price of using a reference potential line in the system of Spracklen in order to provide a common path to ground, as is well known in electrical circuit design.

Regarding claim 11, each of the transceivers is described as being associated with a resident computer (col. 5, lines 25-27), where the computer inherently includes a display and a processor, and further includes an operating control unit (bus control 21 – Fig. 4A), and a plurality of signal inputs and outputs as shown in Figures 4A-4C. Spracklen does not expressly state that the components are disposed in a common housing. However, it is well known in the art to provide components in a single housing to reduce the length of the lines connecting the components. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to implement the components in a common housing in order to reduce the length of the lines connecting the components thereby eliminating noise associated with long transmission lines.

Regarding claim 12, it is well known in the art for computers to include processing units having microcontrollers. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use microcontrollers in the computers of Spracklen as a matter of design consideration.

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Regarding claim 13, the transceiver is described as being associated with a resident computer (col. 5, lines 25-27), where the computer inherently includes a display and a processor, and further includes an operating control unit (bus control 21 – Fig. 4A), and a plurality of signal inputs and outputs as shown in Figures 4A-4C, wherein the second transceiver is considered to expand a function of the first unit. Spracklen does not expressly state that the components are disposed in a common housing. However, it is well known in the art to provide components in a single housing to reduce the length of the lines connecting the components. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to implement the components in a common housing in order to reduce the length of the lines connecting the components thereby eliminating noise associated with long transmission lines.

Regarding claim 14, it is well known in the art for computers to include processing units having microcontrollers. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use microcontrollers in the computers of Spracklen as a matter of design consideration.

Regarding claim 15, Spracklen shows in Figure 7 that the current source is integrated in the unit.

Regarding claim 16, Spracklen shows in Figure 7 that the transceivers include a semiconductor switch (transistor 55).

Regarding claim 18, Spracklen states that the current source is a constant current source (col. 7, lines 16-19).

Regarding claim 20, Spracklen shows in Figure 7 that the current source includes an ohmic resistor 57 connected to a supply potential 56 with a first end, and to the data transmission line via transformer 44 with a second end thereof.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

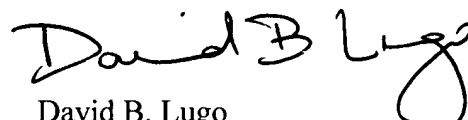
4. Claims 17 and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David B. Lugo whose telephone number is 571-272-3043. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F; 9:30-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jay Patel can be reached on 571-272-2988. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
David B. Lugo  
Patent Examiner

9/4/06